

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

PROVINCE GIVES \$600,000 TO CONNECT PARENTS, SCHOOLS

VICTORIA – A \$600,000 grant will establish a leadership training series to help parents better support school districts, schools and students, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced today.

“Parents are an incredible source of skills and knowledge, and provide great support for schools,” said Bond. “This training will ensure they have the understanding and leadership they need to do that effectively.”

The funding will provide 120 parents (two from each of the 60 school districts) with four weekend training workshops over two years that will build skills in understanding education systems, communications, team building and advocacy.

“By supporting parent leaders at the school and district level,” said Kimberlee Howland, president of B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC). “We can ensure they have the skills and tools necessary to build a strong culture of parent involvement, which will support a stronger public education system for our students.”

Once trained, the parents who attend the workshops will spend a further two years working through BCCPAC, within their school districts, to support parents at the local and district parent advisory councils.

“B.C. has a world-class record of student achievement, but there are still 11,000 students a year who don’t complete high school” said Bond. “Better community supports and more involved parent groups are some of the ways we can help improve the graduation rate.”

Parents interested in the parent leadership training should contact B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils by phone (toll free 1-866-529-4397) or email (SPLSS@bccpac.bc.ca). The application deadline is June 15, with the first training scheduled to begin in September/October.

The parent leadership training provides school districts with more support and builds on legislation introduced to improve student achievement. To help districts reach their achievement goals, the Province has introduced new provincial superintendents of achievement who will work closely with district superintendents to help improve student outcomes.

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